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May/June 2019

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May/June 2019

FEATURED

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By Pepper Trail

For a traveler, simply to say the word "Cuba" sets off a little shiver of excitement. Few other place names unleash such a jumble of associations, opinions, and questions in American minds. For most of the past 50 years, Cuba has been difficult or impossible for Americans to visit, and all the more tantalizing for that. Thanks to a loosening of restrictions by President Obama in 2015 (and despite their partial re-imposition by President Trump), it is now relatively easy to arrange travel to Cuba. In the spring of 2018, I was lucky to serve as a naturalist on a small expedition cruise ship that circumnavigated the entire island, providing a fascinating glimpse of the life — and wildlife — of Cuba.



PHOTO: PEPPER TRAIL

Cuban dreams, Cuban realities: the image of Che in a Havana tenement with jury-rigged electricity.

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COVER: A classic convertible filled with tourists cruises through Old Havana. Photo by Pepper Trail.

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The Evolving Role Of Citizen-Funded Journalism

I've been thinking a lot about citizen-funded journalism recently. Likely, it's because we're in the midst of our Spring Fund Drive making the case to our listeners for our public service mission. But, deeper than that, I've been observing momentum within a broader segment of institutions supporting the idea that citizen-funded journalism, stewarded by nonprofit organizations, should become a more prominent and important part of our journalism ecosystem.

In February, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced that it would invest \$300 million over five years, mostly through grants to nonprofit news organizations, to strengthen journalism by focusing on "building the future of local news and information, which are essential for democracy to function." In making its announcement, The Knight Foundation laid out its case: "Newsrooms across the nation have been decimated by the collapse of traditional business models brought on by the impact of digital technology and social media, which have drawn readers and advertisers to other information sources on the internet. As a result, many communities have turned into news deserts, with little or no local reporting Without revenue, you can't pay reporters. Without reporters, you can't develop consistently reliable news reports about what's happening in your town. Without that reliable news report, you can't figure out how to run local government."

A 2018 report called "Funding the News: Foundations and Nonprofit Media" by the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and Northeastern University's School of Journalism put a sharper point on the troubling trends in journalism revealed by the 2016 election: "In most regions of the country, because of the decline of local newspapers, the information needs of voters were frequently not being met. In these communities, people too often lacked a trusted local source of news that could explain, contextualize, and vet conflicting claims and interpretations. Absent quality local sources of news to rely on, it became that much easier for news consumers to turn to their ideologically preferred outlet, whether a cable news network, a talk radio show, an online site, or a fake news story circulated by way of their social media feeds." The report provides extensive detail of approximately \$1.8 billion in funding awarded to nonprofit

organizations by philanthropic foundations between 2010 and 2015 designed to fill gaps in newspaper reporting.

The Institute for Nonprofit News, established in 2009 by journalists from 27 nonpartisan, nonprofit news organizations, now boasts nearly 200 member organizations. Many of these organizations are dedicated to strengthening the depth of local news in their communities. Some public radio organizations are also building on their existing citizen-funded news-gathering capabilities to create distinct online content news platforms. Colorado Public Radio recently announced acquiring the Denverite, a member-supported local news website from Spirited Media. And, last year local news sites Gothamist, LAist and DCist were acquired respectively by public radio organizations WNYC in New York; KPCC in Pasadena; and WAMU in Washington, D.C.

At JPR, we're considering how we can play a constructive role in creating a better informed public and a stronger journalism ecosystem in the region we serve. In the coming months we'll be expanding our newsroom in significant ways, adding a full-time news director and a regional reporter. Established partnerships with our public radio colleagues in Oregon, California, and the Northwest have also matured and are yielding better journalism, including work done by a team of three reporters covering Oregon politics based at Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) and a full-time science/environment reporter based at JPR. Following our expansion, the JPR newsroom will have the news-gathering resources of at least ten professional journalists.

As we embark on our 50th year of service to the region, we look forward to advancing our local, citizen-funded journalism in the near future. With your continued support, we'll be able to leverage this new organizational capacity to create deeper journalism and compelling stories that foster better informed and more civically engaged communities.

At JPR, we're considering how we can play a constructive role in creating a better informed public and a stronger journalism ecosystem in the region we serve.



Paul Westhelle is
JPR's Executive Director.

CUBA

Another World, Just Offshore

Article and photos by Pepper Trail





LEFT: Graceful and passionate dancers welcome us to the port town of Antilla.

ABOVE: Colorful buildings loom high over the streets of Old Havana.

For a traveler, simply to say the word “Cuba” sets off a little shiver of excitement. Few other place names unleash such a jumble of associations, opinions, and questions in American minds. For most of the past 50 years, Cuba has been difficult or impossible for Americans to visit, and all the more tantalizing for that. Thanks to a loosening of restrictions by President Obama in 2015 (and despite their partial re-imposition by President Trump), it is now relatively easy to arrange travel to Cuba. In the spring of 2018, I was lucky to serve as a naturalist on a small expedition cruise ship that circumnavigated the entire island, providing a fascinating glimpse of the life – and wildlife – of Cuba.

First Impressions – Havana

Strolling down one of Old Havana’s elegant colonial boulevards, you pass through crowds of tourists conversing in English, French, Japanese, German, Russian, and is that Swedish? The tropical sun beats down on your stylish new straw fedora, and perhaps it’s time to step into the shade of a wood-paneled bar for a cool mojito. You’ll pay for your drink (and everything else) with CUC, the “Cuban Convertible Pesos” you received

when you exchanged dollars at the airport.

A couple of blocks away, it’s a different world. You’re still within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Old Havana, but not a tourist in sight. Here, the grand old buildings are falling to pieces. Instead of upscale boutiques and restaurants, they are filled with Cuban families who have jury-rigged electricity and plumbing and subdivided the former mansions into mazes of apartments. They pay their bills with barter or with CUP, the Cuban National Peso, the only currency available to ordinary Cubans. Each CUP is worth about 5% of a CUC – and definitely not convertible into any other currency. This unique two-tiered currency system is one of the many ways that the Cuban government maintains its tight control. As with other oppressive policies, the crippling effects of the continuing American trade embargo provides the regime with a ready justification.

Across the city is the Havana waterfront, where the U.S. Embassy faces a potent symbol of the refusal of these two countries to communicate: a dense forest of bare flagpoles. Under President George W. Bush, “messages to the Cuban people” were broadcast from a large electronic billboard on the building, which was then officially the United States Interest Section (the embassy having been closed following the Cuban Revolution).



Santiago Cemetery: The changing of the guard in front of the tomb of national hero José Martí in Santiago de Cuba.

In response, the Cuban government put up the poles and raised large black flags to block what they considered to be American propaganda. The broadcasts stopped after the embassy was officially re-opened by President Obama in 2015, and the black flags came down. But mistrust and misunderstanding between the U.S. and Cuban governments remains strong, with the modest improvements begun under Obama now frozen by the Trump Administration.

All these contradictions and complexities exist side by side on an island whose extraordinary cultural and natural riches are unrivalled in the Caribbean. Without a doubt, Cuba is one of the world's most compelling travel destinations.

The Nature of Cuba

Cuba is as fascinating for its nature as for its history, culture, and politics. Cuba is by far the largest island in the Caribbean, with an area of over 40,000 square miles, and its biodiversity is unrivaled in the region, including many endemic species – organisms found nowhere else in the world. For example, there are over 3000 species of plants, 130 species of reptiles, 30 species of birds, and 20 species of mammals found only in Cuba. Compared to almost every other island in the Caribbean, Cuba also has an admirable record of conservation, with an extensive system of nature reserves. Truly, the island is a naturalist's paradise.

It must be confessed that Cuba's biodiversity is not always obvious. Many of the endemic reptiles are small *Anolis* lizards, which are amazingly diverse in Cuba, but difficult for non-specialists to tell apart. Most of the endemic mammals are bats (I'll get to an adorable exception later). But the endemic birds are much easier to observe, and many are spectacular. As a life-long birder, I was especially excited about the chance to see the world's smallest bird: the Bee Hummingbird, found only in Cuba. This incredibly tiny hummingbird weighs less than 2 grams. That's less than a dime, and about half the weight of our Rufous Hummingbird, the smallest bird most residents of the "mythical state of Jefferson" are likely to ever see.

So, let's begin our expedition! And the place to begin is, of course, Havana.

Classic Cars and Che Guevara

Havana dominates the political, economic, and cultural life of Cuba. Its rapidly growing population of over 2 million is almost 20% of the whole country. Here the history – and sometimes bewildering present-day contradictions – of Cuba are on full display. I've already described the colonial district of Old Havana, a tourist mecca that also contains dire poverty. For a more contemporary gathering place, let's climb in a lovingly maintained 1950s American convertible, and head for the *Plaza de la Revolución*.

Compared to almost every other island in the Caribbean, Cuba also has an admirable record of conservation, with an extensive system of nature reserves.



The endemic — and adorable — Cuban Tody.

Havana's famous "classic cars" are a tourist magnet, and no visit is complete without taking a ride in one. These cars are an example of the Cuban people's ability to make a virtue of the necessities imposed by the American embargo. Since imports of new American cars ended in 1961, there was no choice but to keep what they had running...and running...and running. When the Cuban government began encouraging tourism from Europe and Canada in the 1990s, it didn't take long for enterprising residents of Havana to realize that tourists would pay handsomely for the nostalgic thrill of a classic car ride. My choice was a cherry red 1954 Buick Skylark convertible. I'm not a "car guy," but — wow!

Our destination, the Plaza of the Revolution, is a huge open square where Independence Day rallies and other great gatherings are held. There are actually three national holidays associated with revolutions in Cuba. Independence Day, October 10, celebrates the beginning of Cuba's struggle for independence from its colonial master, Spain, in 1868. National Revolutionary Day, July 26, commemorates the attack on military barracks in the city of Santiago de Cuba in 1953. This unsuccessful attack, led by Fidel Castro, is considered the beginning of the revolutionary struggle against the regime of Fulgencio Batista. Finally, Victory Day is January 2, and celebrates the triumph of Fidel's revolution on that day in 1959.

On one side, the Plaza of the Revolution is dominated by a towering white obelisk, with a massive statue at its base. Like



Bright-eyed country kids who excitedly helped me spot a Cuban Trogon, their national bird.



many foreign tourists, I made the assumption that the statue must depict Fidel Castro. But no, our guide corrected us – that is our Cuban national hero, José Martí. To which, in one voice, we all responded – “Who?” We learned that Martí was a 19th-century journalist, political theorist, and poet who galvanized the independence struggle against Spain, and much later provided inspiration to Castro’s revolutionaries. We were to encounter memorials to him everywhere on our travels around Cuba.

On the opposite side of the Plaza of the Revolution are several large government buildings, whose bland facades are enlivened by huge renderings of the faces of revolutionary leaders. Again, these do not include Fidel, but one of them is instantly recognizable: Che Guevara. Guevara was an Argentine, but met Fidel and Raul Castro in Mexico City, and returned with them to Cuba in 1956 to fight against the Batista regime. He was an important military commander in the revolution, and remained in Cuba as a central figure in the new Communist government until 1965, when he left to promote revolutions in Africa and Latin America (he was captured and executed in Bolivia in 1967). One can only imagine what Che would think of the carefree tourists who now cluster in the *Plaza de la Revolución* and take selfies with his iconic image in the background.

All Aboard

After a couple of very full days in Havana and its surroundings, we set sail on our 120-passenger expedition ship, the *Hebridean Sky*, to experience the rest of Cuba. Though our itinerary was of course controlled by the Cuban authorities, this vessel allowed us – and our wonderful Cuban guides, David, Rigo, and Abel – unusual mobility and freedom. It was also the ideal platform for snorkeling on Cuba’s reefs, the best in the Caribbean. As my duties generally kept me onshore leading the birders, I didn’t have many opportunities to experience the reefs, but every day the snorkelers came back aboard with glowing reports.

We sailed east from Havana on our clockwise circumnavigation of the island. Our first stop along the north coast was Cayo Guillermo, an area of beautiful beaches, lagoons, and mangroves that was hit hard by Hurricane Irma in September 2017. We had been warned that the region’s famous population of flamingos had deserted the area following the hurricane, but were delighted to find that at least small numbers had returned, along with an abundance of shorebirds, many of which were preparing to migrate to their nesting grounds in the Arctic.

We also explored an area of coastal forest, where we spotted our first endemic birds, the lovely Cuban Emerald hummingbird and the adorable Cuban Tody. The todies are a family of five similar species found only in the islands of the Caribbean. They look a bit like a cross between a hummingbird and a



120-passenger expedition ship, the *Hebridean Sky*.

Santiago is closer to Haiti than it is to Havana, and gives full expression to the African influences that form such a rich and distinctive element of Cuban music and culture.



Classic Cuba: a street musician in the colonial town of Trinidad.

tiny kingfisher (to which they are distantly related), and make their living darting out from perches in the forest undergrowth to snap up insects with their long, flat beaks.

Despite some lingering hurricane damage, the coastal forest and mangroves of Cayo Guillermo were largely intact. Our travels confirmed that Cuba's natural environment is in far better shape than elsewhere in the Caribbean. The country's economic isolation has limited resort developments, especially away from Havana, and the Cuban government has a good record of promoting conservation areas and sustainable agriculture. It will be interesting to see if these environmental protections will be able to withstand development pressures as Cuba opens up to the world.

Second City: Santiago

Our next major port of call was the city of Santiago, considered the cultural capital of Cuba. Santiago is located at the southeastern corner of the island, not far west of the American base at Guantanamo, which we passed in the night (and gave a wide berth). Santiago is closer to Haiti than it is to Havana, and gives full expression to the African influences that form such a rich and distinctive element of Cuban music and culture.

Santiago is also rich in the history of Cuba's revolutionary struggles, first against the Spanish and then against the Batista regime. If you're like me, the only thing you may vaguely re-

member about the Spanish-American War is the Battle of San Juan Hill. San Juan Hill is on the outskirts of Santiago, and the battle was the bloodiest of that war – which in Cuba is understandably known as the Cuban-Spanish-American War. It was here that young colonel Theodore Roosevelt led his Rough Riders volunteers in the face of withering fire from the Spanish defenders, and achieved fame that would ultimately propel him to the presidency.

And it was in Santiago that Fidel Castro led his first military action against the Batista government. On the 26th of July, 1953, a small group of guerillas led by Castro attacked the Moncada Barracks in an attempt to seize weapons from the arsenal. The attack was a disaster, with many of the guerillas killed and most of the leaders captured, including Fidel and his brother Raul, who were both given long prison sentences. Despite its failure, Fidel considered that this action was the beginning of the Cuban Revolution, and after he gained power in 1959 ordered that the barracks be converted to a school and revolutionary history museum.

Santiago is also home to Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, the most important in Cuba. By far the largest and most impressive tomb is the resting place of Cuban national hero José Martí, who was killed in battle against Spanish forces in 1895. The tomb looms at the end of a colonnade of palms, and an honor guard performs an elaborate goose-stepping changing of the guard ceremony there every half hour, leading us to assume at first that



In the nature reserve of Las Terrazas, a man gently cradles his pet hutia, an endemic rodent of Cuba.



The fate of revolutionaries: Fidel fails to inspire a bored attendant at the Bay of Pigs Museum.

this must be the tomb of Fidel. But no – Fidel’s gravesite is nearby, but easily overlooked, as it is marked only by a large boulder with a simple bronze plaque reading “Fidel.” Cuban visitors are well aware of the location, however, as shown by the pile of fresh bouquets.

Our full day spent steeped in the great events of Cuban history was all very well, but as twilight fell, it was time to go out on the town. There were mojitos, and delicious *ropas viejo* and *picadillo*, and there was music, there was dancing, and yes, I even puffed on a premium Cuban cigar. Objectively speaking, I found it vile – but subjectively speaking, it was an unforgettable part of a wonderful night.

Into the Mountains: Guanayara National Park

What better way to clear the head after a night of rum and cigars than a brisk hike? Well, not everyone agreed with that, but at our next port, the small town of Casilda, a hardy group of passengers and myself boarded a bus and headed for the Sierra del Escambray mountain range. The air at 2600 feet was delightfully cool compared to the sweltering lowlands, and we enjoyed a beautiful (and thoughtfully downhill) hike through tropical forest following a cascading stream with waterfalls and aquamarine pools. The Guanayara National Park is rich with birds, and we got wonderful looks at Cuba’s lovely national bird, the Cuban Trogon, whose blue, red, and white plumage matches the Cuban flag. In the rock grottos surrounding a waterfall, we even spotted a wild hutia. The large rodents, which look rather like exceptionally cute rats, are found only on the Caribbean islands, and Cuba is home to nine endemic species. Later, at the visitor center, we got a close look at a tame one. Its

owner seemed very fond of it, but our guide informed us that it would likely eventually end up in the cooking pot.

Trinidad de Cuba

On our return from the mountains, we enjoyed a visit to the colonial town of Trinidad. With cobblestone streets, a lovely town square, and beautifully preserved pastel houses draped with vibrant bougainvillea, Trinidad richly deserves its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While others cooled off with a Cristal beer or mojito, I made a beeline for the *heladeria*, and enjoyed a coconut ice cream as I listened to a street musician playing a soulful bolero on his guitar. Ah, Cuba!

The Bay of Pigs and Zapata National Park

For Americans of a certain age, like myself, our first memory associated with Cuba is the Cuban Missile Crisis, and not far behind...the Bay of Pigs. Our next port of call was the town of Giron, and its *Museo de la Intervención* provided us with the Cuban perspective on that disastrous CIA-backed invasion by anti-Castro forces. After three days of battle around Giron in April 1961, the invading forces – mostly poorly trained young men from Cuban exile families – were completely defeated. Fidel personally took a leading role in repelling the attack, and photographs of him in battle gear are everywhere in the museum. This was, in fact, the only place in Cuba where we saw the kind of heroic depictions of Fidel that I’d actually expected to see all over the island. The failure of the invasion, and America’s undeniable involvement, drove Cuba closer to the Soviet Union, ultimately contributing to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963.

This history was all very well, but I confess I had a hard time focusing. Giron is also the gateway to Zapata National Park, Cuba's most famous area for birds—and one of the best places to see the Bee Hummingbird. I made sure that the first stop after the *Museo de la Intervención* was the *Jardín de Zunzun*—the “Garden of the Bee Hummingbird,” which goes by the wonderfully onomatopoeic name of *zunzun* in Cuba. The garden was really just the back yard of a modest house, where hummingbird feeders were set up around a tree covered with small orange trumpet-shaped flowers — the exact right size for the beak of the smallest bird in the world. We were herded in by groups of 10, and all of us got to see the incredibly tiny hummingbirds zipping among the flowers and chasing each other with typical hummingbird feistiness. To paraphrase Shakespeare, though they be but little, they are fierce!

The keen birders were also able to venture deeper into the national park, and we were rewarded with thrilling views of Cuban Parrots, Great Lizard-Cuckoos, and not one but two species of endemic owls, the Cuban Pygmy Owl and the adorable Bare-legged Owl, which reminded me of the Ewoks from Star Wars.

The Isle of Youth

After Giron, we left the “mainland” of Cuba behind, and set sail for the Isle of Pines, the large circular island tucked beneath Cuba's outstretched western arm. At least it used to be called the Isle of Pines, for its once-abundant pine forests. In 1978, Fidel re-named it *Isla de Juventud*, the Isle of Youth. He dreamed of establishing schools on the island for youth from around the world, who would return to their own countries to spread his socialist vision. Unfortunately, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 plunged Cuba into a deep economic crisis, euphemistically referred to as the “Special Period.” This brought an end to Castro's internationalist dreams, and the schools on the Isle of Youth were abandoned.

The Isle of Youth is home to one of the most extraordinary — and historically significant — sites in Cuba, the *Presidio Modelo*, a “model prison” built on a so-called panopticon design. Built in the 1920s and closed in 1967, the main prison buildings are now falling into ruin, and walking into one of the huge structures feels like entering a vast post-apocalyptic movie set.

A panopticon prison consists of a huge circular building with a single guard tower in the center, reachable only by a tunnel. The tiny cells had no doors. Thus, all the prisoners could be in view at once from the tower, but would not know if they were under observation by the hidden guard. The English social theorist Jeremy Bentham, who conceived the design, described it as “a new mode of obtaining power of mind over mind...a mill for grinding rogues honest.” It is as chilling an example of “social architecture” as you can find.

Presidio Modelo, far from the Cuban mainland, was where the dictator Fulgencio Batista sent political prisoners. However, his goal of suppressing revolutionary ideas backfired spectacularly. Fidel and Raul Castro, along with other leaders of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, were imprisoned at *Presidio Modelo* from 1953–1955, and Castro put those years to good use. Within the circular prison walls, he set up the “Abel Santamaría Ideological Academy” to indoctrinate fellow prisoners,

wrote his manifesto “History Will Absolve Me,” and founded the 26th of July Movement. The rest, as they say, is history.

Last Stop – María la Gorda

After the Isle of Youth, our final port of call was the beautiful beach resort of María la Gorda and the adjacent Guanacahabibes Peninsula Biosphere Reserve at the western tip of Cuba. The snorkelers hopped into the ship's zodiacs and set out for one of the best reefs in the Caribbean, where they had close encounters with barracuda, stingrays, spiny lobsters, and great forests of staghorn coral. The beach-lovers finally got the opportunity for a lazy day of sunbathing and swimming — a rarity on our very packed itinerary! And the naturalists had a last hike into the Cuban wilds.

The Guanacahabibes Peninsula is composed of highly eroded limestone, and it would have been almost impossible to walk off-trail across the jagged spikes and spines of rock. Fortunately, the reserve has an excellent trail system, and we had great views of our now-familiar favorites, the Cuban Trogon and Cuban Tody, as well as our first looks at rarer endemic birds, the Cuban Bullfinch and Cuban Vireo. The forest was also full of bright red land crabs, which raised their impressive claws pugnaciously as we passed. The scenic highlight of the hike was a lovely cenote — an azure pool in the fossilized reef along the shore. The pool was connected to the sea through fissures in the limestone, and reef fish swam in its salty depths, while a lens of fresh water floated above. Truly a remarkable sight!

That afternoon, the *Hebridean Sky* weighed anchor and set sail for Havana and the end of our voyage. We sailed through the night, and passed the Spanish *El Morro* Fortress and into Havana harbor just as the sun rose. The pilot managed to maneuver us in next to a 2000-passenger cruise ship at the dock—a behemoth that is only considered “mid-sized” in the world of leisure cruising. As I watched the passengers streaming off the vessel for their one day in Cuba, it was impossible not to wonder what the future will hold for this unique island.

There is so much to admire in Cuba — its vibrant and distinctive culture, its egalitarian educational and medical systems, its record of environmental protection. There is also poverty, lack of free expression, and pervasive government control. As it opens to the world, will Cuba be able to preserve its culture and its environment while allowing its energetic and inventive people more opportunities?

Challenging though these transitions will be, I am confident that Cuba will navigate them successfully. Everywhere we visited on our voyage, we were met with friendliness, hospitality — and fierce pride. Cubans long for more freedom, but their pride in their country and their culture is unshakable. Old Havana and a few coastal resorts may become tourist enclaves, but the traveler venturing beyond will find Cuba, the real Cuba, waiting — with music, a smile, and a cigar.

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New Technology Will Help Northwest Forest Managers Assess Wildfire Danger

A tool forest managers use to determine the level of fire danger is getting its first update in more than 40 years.

The National Fire Danger Rating System uses information like temperature, humidity and wind to let firefighters know how wildfire will behave.

“It allows us to combine a lot of information to produce a very simple categorical scale of fire weather conditions for a particular place on a particular day,” said U.S. Forest Service researcher Matt Jolly.

Jolly helped develop the update for the system, which will be available for fire agencies, public lands managers and others to access in time for fire season this year.

He says the new system will be automated. Previously it required a human presence to take readings at weather stations scattered across the country. In addition, the science behind the calculations of fire danger has been updated.

“In the future, even now, we can do things that we haven’t been able to do before—like look at the hour to hour changes in fire danger,” Jolly said.

The system is also used to set fire danger signs at the entrance to Northwest campgrounds, national forests and some towns. The signs usually only reflect certain risk factors, like temperature and fuel moisture that usually don’t change dramatically on a daily basis.

“The public won’t see any changes to those Smoky Bear iconic (fire danger) portal signs. You know you have Smoky there with green and orange and red, laying out fire danger. That system will be the same. It’s just the science behind it will be much better,” said Holly Krake, a spokesperson for Washington’s Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

The National Forest is adopting the new system in time for the coming fire season, as are the Central Washington Interagency Communications Center and Northeast Washington Interagency Communications Center, which help coordinate wildfire response.

Other National Forests in the Northwest, like the Rogue River-Siskiyou in southwest Oregon and Wallowa-Whitman in northeast Oregon, are waiting another year before changing over.



PHOTO: JACOB FRANK/NPS

Information on public fire danger signs comes from the Nation Fire Danger Rating System, which is being updated for the first time in more than four decades.

“The goal is to have all operating areas in the Pacific Northwest under the new system in 2020,” said Forest Service spokesperson Stephen Baker in an email statement.

The National Fire Danger Rating System is just one of many tools used by forest and fire managers to assess conditions on the ground.

“(NFDRS is) not designed to make a decision for you in a little black box,” said Ruth Johnson, a fire planner at Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

She says if the information provided through the system doesn’t mesh with local observations, managers will adjust to provide the most accurate assessment of fire danger as possible.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Reporting for this story was supported by the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources.



Jes Burns is the Southern Oregon reporter for Oregon Public Broadcasting’s Science and Environment unit. She’s based at Jefferson Public Radio and works collaboratively with JPR’s newsroom to create original journalism that helps citizens examine how environmental issues unfolding in their own backyards intersect with national issues. Her work can be heard and seen on public radio and television stations throughout the Pacific Northwest.



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AI doesn't just change a few things;
it changes everything.

“Future Shock” Revisited

In 1965, futurist and writer Alvin Toffler coined the term “future shock” to describe the “shattering stress and disorientation that we induce in individuals by subjecting them to too much change in too short a time”.

In 1970, Toffler published *Future Shock* in which he went in-depth about the many ways in which rapid technological and social change were leaving people disconnected and disoriented, severed from the past but not fully belonging to the future that was arriving too quickly to process.

The outcome of future shock, warned Toffler, would be catastrophic: “unless man quickly learns to control the rate of change in his personal affairs as well as society at large, we are doomed to a massive adaptational breakdown.”

As we approach the 50-year anniversary of the publication of *Future Shock*, Toffler’s work has proven to have been somewhat prophetic.

Today, we certainly have what Toffler called “overchoice”, that is, too many products and options to choose from. (Amazon.com alone offers more than 600 million products.) We also live in a throw-away society in which many of those products quickly become obsolete or are tossed out and replaced by the newest model. As Toffler predicated, we’ve experienced steadily rising suicide rates, and 1 in 5 Americans today suffer from some form of mental health condition. We’re transients too. We move quickly from company to company and city to city. We swipe left and right on Tinder. We get married and divorced then remarried. And amidst all of that, we’re continually subjected to what Toffler identified as the biggest future shock instigator of all: technological advancement.

“The high velocity of change can be traced to many factors,” wrote Toffler. “Yet technological advance is clearly a critical node in the network of causes [of future shock]; indeed, it may be the node that activates the entire net. One powerful strategy in the battle to prevent mass future shock, therefore, involves the conscious regulation of technological advance.”

While I agree with Toffler in principle, his clarion call for conscious regulation of technological advancement has proven to be somewhat impractical. Regulation comes from our political system, which is slow and fallible at best and completely ineffective at its worst.

Meanwhile, technological advancement has become increasingly exponential, following what inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil calls “The Law of Accelerating Returns”.

“An analysis of the history of technology shows that technological change is exponential,” wrote Kurzweil in 2001. “Within a few



decades, machine intelligence will surpass human intelligence, leading to the Singularity—technological change so rapid and profound it represents a rupture in the fabric of human history.”

Machine intelligence or “artificial intelligence” (AI), refers to non-biological intelligence. The definition of AI has been a moving target ever since the term was first coined back in 1956 to describe the development of a “thinking machine”, that is, a computer system that was capable of imitating human-like cognitive functions.

Today, we use AI without thinking of it as a “thinking machine”. Every time you ask Siri a question, you are interacting with an AI, albeit a “narrow” or “weak” AI system. Similarly, when you do a Google search, AI is determining the most relevant search results. When you map a route on your smartphone, AI is determining the shortest route for you based on physical distance and possible delays due to traffic congestion. When you travel on an airplane, an AI system is piloting the airplane for most of the flight. But we don’t tend to think of these systems as “intelligent”. Today, they’re just hardware and software doing “computer stuff”.

In 1997, IBM’s chess-playing AI system Deep Blue defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov. In 2011, IBM’s Watson beat the top human contestants in *Jeopardy!*. In 2015, Google’s AlphaGo beat a top-ranked player in the ancient Chinese board

Continued on page 29



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Blowing Smoke

As no one needs to be reminded, the smoke from forest fires was brutal last summer. Here in Ashland, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and many other businesses struggled, and we all spent weeks cooped up indoors. But at least our shared misery produced a kind of foxhole solidarity. When we ventured out into the smoke, faces mostly hidden behind N95 masks, we made eye contact and nodded in sympathy to each other.

Rains finally came in late October, and the smoke was laid to rest. But it has continued to dominate conversations, and the mood is worse than ever. People are angry. In particular, our local newspaper, the *Medford Mail Tribune*, is mad as hell. Every single day the front page features a red box declaring “The *Mail Tribune* is holding politicians accountable for clean air in Southern Oregon” and counting down the estimated number of days “UNTIL 2019 FIRE SEASON BEGINS.”

Following the end of last fire season, Oregon Governor Kate Brown did not seem to grasp the air of crisis consuming the southern part of the state. Her proposal to allocate \$400,000 for a committee to study the state’s wildfire response—and not report back until next September—was met with fury and scorn.

Dave Schott, executive vice president for the Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association, was dismissive: “What the governor is proposing is nothing.” The *Mail Tribune* editorialized “If that news has smoke coming out of your ears, you’re not alone.” The president of the county Chamber of Commerce fumed “It’s disappointing that A) the funds are so limited and B)

that the funds are to study the effects rather than doing something about the wildfires. I think every summer for the last decade has been a case study in wildfires, and enough is enough.”

There you have it: enough is enough. Though the details are fuzzy, the message to politicians and land managers is clear: *Do something, dammit!* Solve this problem so we can get back to our lives, built on our tourism-based economy and the enjoyment of our beautiful surroundings.

Oh, how I wish we could!

This year’s fire frenzy has produced at least one positive result: an unprecedented level of community conversation. Public forums on wildfire and smoke have been hosted by Representative Pam Marsh, KS Wild, the Geos Institute, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), and maybe others I lost track of. Congressman Greg Walden and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley face questions about wildfire at every town hall event. For much of the fall and winter, letters to the editor and longer op-ed pieces on wildfire appeared almost daily in the *Mail Tribune*.

If sincere and passionate engagement was what it took to “solve” the problem of wildfire, we’d be in good shape. By some combination of logging, thinning, and prescribed burning we could somehow fire-proof the millions of acres that are at risk of wildfire—all without generating troublesome smoke, and before the next fire season, please.

But the National Climate Assessment report released by federal climate scientists in November makes clear that climate change

Continued on page 29





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A Long Road From Stratford

Okay, I know that Shakespeare's plays were not performed in his birthplace until more than a century after his death, but I hope you take my point. OSF has moved a very long way from its original mission and, in many ways, that is at it should be. The standard achieved by this company has enabled it to have a platform on which to stage bold and innovative productions—productions which would simply be too risky for other companies. If OSF doesn't take risks, nobody can, and a whole range of new theatre will never see the light of day, at least not in this valley. Sometimes these gambles do not pay off, but when they do, as with the opening four shows of this season, the effect is sensational and provocative.

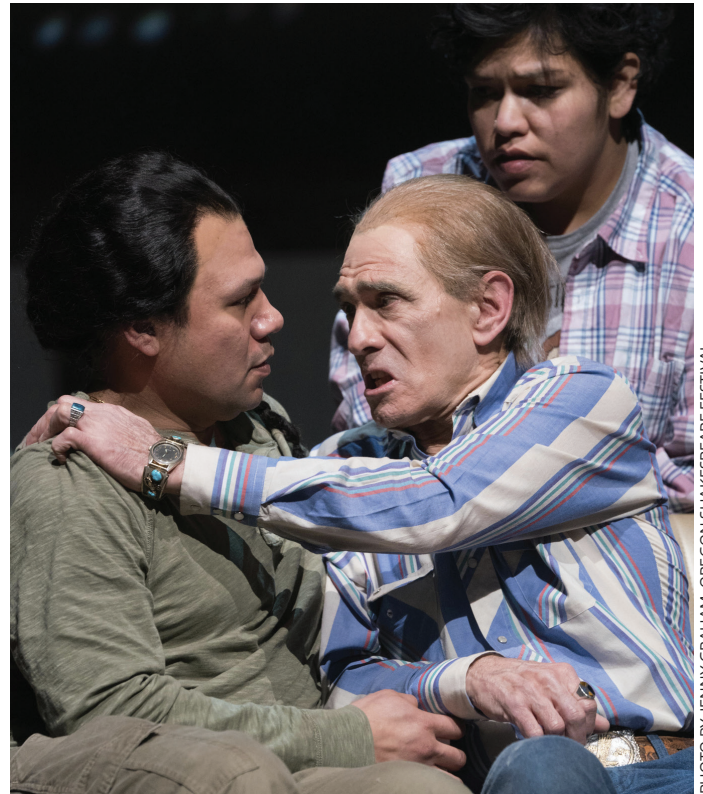
This season began a little later in the year than usual: the first productions opened in March rather than in February, and only one of these productions was of a Shakespeare play (although *As You Like It* was the first to open). This production of *As You Like It*, directed by Rosa Joshi, is not for purists; there are textual changes and unconventional casting choices, and it is an interpretation which has already provoked critical comment on social media.

Before seeing this production, I had some reservations about having a female Jacques, not because I object to a woman playing the role but because, when that decision was made in the 2012 OSF production, all the other exiles in Arden remained male. The notion of an all-male group was destroyed as it would be, for example with a female Berowne in *Love's Labour's Lost*, if the other three lords were men.

In this 2019 production, the situation is very different. As a note in the Playbill explains:

"...a series of questions emerged that ultimately framed the representation of gender in the production. What if the cycle of exile in the court reflected the dismissal of powerful women and the men who fear them? What if Duke Frederick banished his sister instead of his brother and Rosalind's initial quest in Arden is to seek out her mother?"

In this production, the leader of the exiles in Arden is a woman. She preserves the title of the Duke although referred to as "she", and her whole group is gender-neutral, clad in androgynous costumes. Audrey becomes Aubrey and the marriage to Touchstone is presented as being as unremarkable as the same-sex partnerships in OSF's 2018 production of *Oklahoma!* To cite but one example, in a telling change of lines, one exchange between Sir Oliver Martext and Touchstone is transformed. In the original, Sir Oliver asks "Is there none here to give the woman?", and Touchstone replies "I will not take her on gift of



Mother Road (2019): Tony Sancho (Martín Jodes), Mark Murphey (William Joad), Amy Lizardo (Mo).

PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

any man." In this production, it is Aubrey who responds to Sir Oliver's question with "I would not be given on gift of anyone."

In a fine cast, Erica Sullivan's excellent Jacques (she played Rosalind in the 2012 production) is a revelation, she becomes a railing cynic, unnervingly close to Thersites in *Troilus and Cressida*. The production begins with the whole cast, in ritualized procession, telling us the story-so-far (lines usually allocated to Charles the wrestler) and there is a good deal of stylised, almost balletic gesture throughout, suggesting an exotic culture, an effect enhanced by the simple set and extensive use of music. The comedy of the lines is complemented by physical humour, especially among the younger members of the Arden community, and all of the stage combat is beautifully choreographed.

The more rural characters are distinguished by their country accents, and the clarity of speech throughout is exemplary. The only exception is in the final scene when the revelation usu-

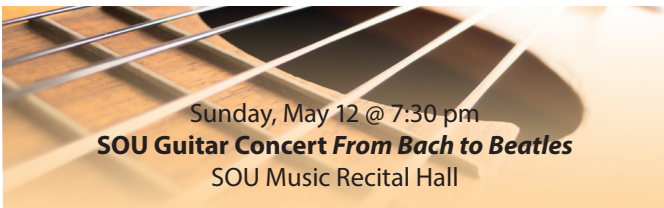
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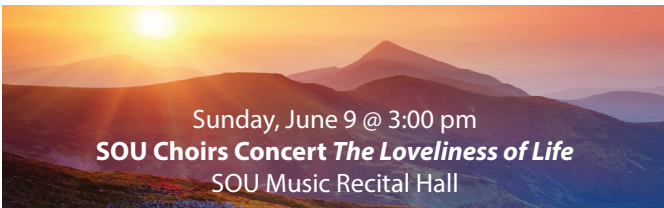
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Theatre

Continued from page 21

ally spoken by the mysterious second son is not fully audible in the general confusion.

Unusually, this is not an Arden in which hunting plays any significant role. Jacques is reported as objecting to hunting, but the scene in which a deer is presented to the Duke is removed entirely, as are most of the lines referring to horns and infidelity. The one reference to snails and horns which does remain seems, therefore, slightly out of place, and certainly lacking in context. In the absence of deer, the feasting on this Arden is vegetarian and largely fruit-based.

There is no intervention by Hymen in the final scene, and the epilogue usually delivered by Rosalind is omitted; instead the choric opening is matched by a choric closing, centred on the familiar "All the world's a stage" speech—transferred from its usual placing in Act Two. Fittingly, in this version of the speech, the description of "the whining schoolboy, with his satchel/ And shining morning face" is changed to a "whining schoolgirl".

I enjoyed this thought-provoking production, although I can see that it might not be, in the words of Rosalind, "for all markets".

Like *As You Like It*, *Mother Road* is staged at the Angus Bowmer Theatre, and the two productions share a simplicity of staging which focusses attention on the actors rather than on special effects. *Mother Road*, directed by Bill Rauch, is the latest play to have its world premiere at OSF, and we are fortunate indeed to be the first to see a full production of this powerful work by Octavio Solis.

The play was commissioned by the National Steinbeck Center and follows the journey of the terminally ill William Joad, a descendant of the Joad family from *The Grapes of Wrath* who discovers that his only relative, and therefore the only person to whom he can leave his farm in Sallisaw Oklahoma, is Martin Jodes, a young Mexican-American living in California. Joad wants to take Jodes

back to Oklahoma, but Jodes will not take a plane, so the two men set off to drive from California along Route 66, the Mother Road.

The production sees the welcome return of Mark Murphey, fifty years after his OSF debut. Mark plays William Joad with an intensity and humanity which is more than moving. His relationship with Jodes (Tony Sancho in his first season at OSF) is central to the play as they learn from each other and from those they meet along the road about the nature of contemporary USA, and the meaning of family.

The ensemble of nine actors portray a variety of people in a range of locations along the road. They give an object lesson in the ways in which a single actor can become different people (and, at one point, become a gas pump!) with only the minimum of costume change.

For me, one of the most powerful scenes is set in a motel where Abelardo, the Mexican-American owner initially refuses to rent a room to William Joad because Joad is an "Okie" and the ancestors of Joad had taken jobs from Mexican-Americans in the 1930s. Abelardo argues with the ghost of his father, and comes to a realization that the prejudices of history need to be left behind.

The play is a sequel and homage to Steinbeck's novel, and provides a mirror image of the trajectory of that epic story. In Steinbeck's book, the truck starts in Oklahoma with all the family on board and those family members leave the truck on its way to California. In this play, Joad and Jodes start their journey as the only two people in their vehicle: by the end, when their truck reaches Sallisaw it carries a new family, acquired along the road, a family with bonds potentially stronger than blood. The Mother Road recognises that kinship can transcend kin.



Geoff Ridden has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Since moving to Ashland in 2008, he has become a familiar figure on radio, in the theatre, in the lecture hall and on the concert stage. He is artistic director of the Classic Readings Theatre Company and has a particular interest in adaptations of the plays of Shakespeare. Email classicroadings@gmail.com



As You Like It (2019): Román Zaragoza (Orlando de Boys), Kevin Kenerly (Duke Frederic, center), James Ryen (Charles), Ensemble.

PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

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2:00pm Performance Today Weekend
4:00pm All Things Considered
5:00pm Chicago Symphony Orchestra
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June 15 – *Simon Boccanegra*
by Giuseppe Verdi

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LEFT: Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads the classic John Dexter production of Poulenc's devastating story of faith and martyrdom. Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard sings the touching role of Blanche and soprano Karita Mattila, a legend in her own time, returns to the Met as the Prioress.

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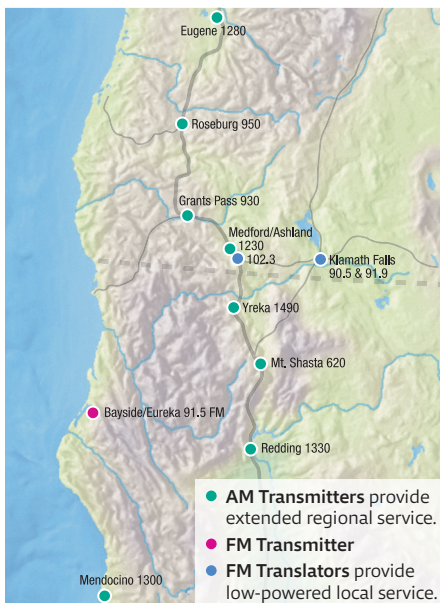
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3:00pm Live From Here with Chris Thile
5:00pm All Things Considered

6:00pm American Rhythm
8:00pm Q the Music / 99% Invisible
9:00pm The Retro Lounge
10:00pm Late Night Blues
12:00am Undercurrents

Sunday

5:00am Weekend Edition
9:00am TED Radio Hour
10:00am This American Life
11:00am The Moth Radio Hour
12:00pm Jazz Sunday
2:00pm American Routes
4:00pm Sound Opinions
5:00pm All Things Considered
6:00pm The Folk Show
9:00pm Live From Here with Chris Thile
11:00pm Mountain Stage
1:00am Undercurrents

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3:00pm Fresh Air
4:00pm PRI's The World
5:00pm On Point
7:00pm Fresh Air (repeat)
8:00pm The Jefferson Exchange (repeat of 8am broadcast)
10:00pm BBC World Service

Saturday

5:00am BBC World Service
7:00am WorldLink
8:00am Day 6
9:00am Freakonomics Radio
10:00am Planet Money
11:00am Hidden Brain
12:00pm Living on Earth
1:00pm Science Friday
3:00pm To the Best of Our Knowledge
5:00pm Politics with Amy Walter
6:00pm Selected Shorts
7:00pm BBC World Service

Sunday

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7:00am Inside Europe
8:00am On The Media
9:00am Innovation Hub
10:00am Reveal
11:00am This American Life
12:00pm Hidden Brain
1:00pm Political Junkie
2:00pm Fresh Air Weekend
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I'll report back in 23 years to let you know if *Nashville Sound* stays with me as long as *Wildflowers*.

It's Only Rock & Roll, But...

If you listen to *Open Air*, it won't come as a big surprise that I am a pretty big fan of Tom Petty. In the late 80s I was a casual fan. With his work in the Traveling Wilburys and the release of *Full Moon Fever* produced by fellow Wilbury Jeff Lynne, I went super-fan. It was the simplicity of the melodies and unapologetic three chord rock and roll that drew me in. And then there were the lyrics, so simple but so illustrative: "It was a beautiful day. The sun beat down. I had the radio on. I was drivin'. The Trees went by. Me and Del were singin', Little Runaway. I was flyin'." A portrait painted with simple phrasing in one of Petty's most memorable songs "Runnin' Down a Dream."

In 1994, *Wildflowers* came out. I was just learning to play guitar. Learning the basic chord progressions for those tunes while learning guitar took me way into it. *Wildflowers* was a hit machine with memorable tunes like "You Don't Know How it Feels", a rocker like "You Wreck Me" and more personal tunes like "Don't Fade on Me" with nothing but Petty and Mike Campbell and two acoustic guitars. The catchy title track was written in one take with a tape recorder running. "It's Good to Be King" and "House in the Woods" find Petty and the band stretching out a bit in an effort to show their jam chops. As with many of his previous songs the lyrics have a way of drawing you in. You feel the awkwardness of "I'll be the boy, in the corduroy pants. You be the girl, at the high school dance." The album spoke to me and drew me in. Often when it comes to albums I spend so much time with, I end up putting them on the back shelf. In the 25 years since its release, I continue to listen to and learn guitar techniques from *Wildflowers*.

A similar love affair happened with an album that hasn't yet stood the test of time with me, but likely will, and for a lot of the same reasons. Jason Isbell was in my periphery for a while. I had heard Drive By Truckers, a band he was in early in his career and had also listened to some of his solo work. I remember an interview with Isbell discussing his songwriting and specifically one line in the song "Codeine" from *Here We Rest*, an album released in 2011.

"If there's one thing I can't stand
It's this bar and this cover band
Trying to fake their way through 'Castles Made of Sand'.
That's one thing I can't stand."

Isbell says this was a true moment for him; he changed the

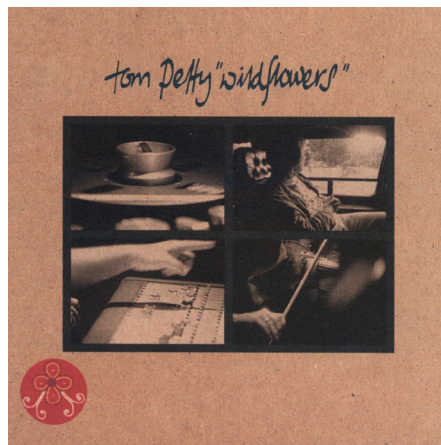
name of the song in case that cover band was still playing it. He didn't want them to feel self-conscious. Being in a cover band myself, it makes me feel self-conscious, but I can live with it for the sake of this great song. Like Tom Petty, his songwriting is simple, very honest and moving, though Isbell tends to be a little darker. More of a Dylan vibe. His band, The 400 Unit, includes his very talented wife Amanda Shires (who has a successful solo career) on fiddle and harmony vocals. They play with twang, but rather than glossy country, it has an edgier rock feel reminiscent of Tom Petty.

In 2016 Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit released *The Nashville Sound*. Despite its name, it really isn't a Nashville country album. Like *Wildflowers* it has some crunchy guitar rock like "Cumberland Gap" and "Molotov" an ode to his younger roots, some folky numbers and the sad and beautiful existential love song and Grammy winning "If we were vampires". At their show at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in 2018 I was walking back

through the crowd as they played it watching couples hold each other and cry. The verse "if we were vampires and death was a joke, we'd go out on the sidewalk and smoke, and laugh at all the lovers and their plans, I wouldn't feel the need to hold your hand" sung in harmony with Amanda Shires, still chokes me up almost every time I hear it. His self-aware song "White Man's World" acknowledges his own white privilege with a vow to do better for the sake of his daughter. "Hope the High Road" talks about the seemingly impossible task of navigating today's world with strength and grace, "Last year was a son of a bitch, For nearly everyone we know, But I ain't fighting with you down in the ditch, I'll meet you up here on the road", words we can all use right now.

Both albums seem very basic but when you scratch the surface, hidden depths are revealed. I'll report back in 23 years to let you know if *Nashville Sound* stays with me as long as *Wildflowers*, but if you have yet to dig into either I would recommend both. For fans of either album, you owe it to yourself to check out the other. They do not disappoint.

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Inside The Box

Continued from page 17



Spectators watch a broadcast of the final, decisive game in the rematch between Garry Kasparov and the IBM computer Deep Blue. May 11, 1997.

game Go and two years later beat the world's best Go player, Ke Jie. All of these AI systems outperformed their human rivals by playing millions of game simulations and gaining knowledge and expertise through machine learning.

As AI continues its exponential climb up Kurzweil's Law of Accelerating Returns, it will go far beyond games and permeate all facets of the global economy and human culture. AI will disrupt the job market with AI systems and robots replacing humans. Entire industries and institutions will be transformed or destroyed and governments will struggle to govern. In order to keep up with this rapid transformation, we will need to further integrate with AI systems in order to augment our own intelligence. (You're already doing this every time you use that tiny computer you call a "smartphone" that you carry with you wherever you go.)

AI doesn't just change a few things; it changes everything.

"AI is probably the most important thing humanity has ever worked on," said Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

"As the AI revolution accelerates," write James Adams and Richard Kletter in their prescient new book *Artificial Intelligence: Confronting the Revolution*, "it will do so against the background of instability: a growing and hopeless underclass, a widening gap between rich and poor, a government that grows less relevant as it legislates for the past while the future comes ever faster, and an education system that teaches every new generation about a world that, by the time they graduate, will no longer exist."

But perhaps our greatest *future shock* in the future isn't going to be how to adapt and survive the "shattering stress and disorientation" that will accompany the shockwave of the AI revolution — it's going to be figuring out what it means to be human in a world that's dominated and run by machines.



Scott Dewing is a technologist, writer, and teacher. He lives on a low-tech farm in the State of Jefferson.

Jefferson Almanac

Continued from page 19

is creating conditions that all but guarantee decades of severe fires. Given the immense inertia of the global climate system — and the perhaps even greater inertia of politicians and business interests — the best we can hope for is to slow the rate of these devastating changes. These are not problems that we can fix. They are new realities to which, sooner or later, we will be forced to adapt.

Human nature being what it is, I'm afraid that a lot of money and a lot of work will be poured into trying to maintain a "normal" that is irretrievably gone. In particular, the favored response of the timber industry and many local politicians — aggressive logging on public lands — will do little to protect communities and clear the air. Extreme "fire weather," which is expected to become much more frequent as a result of climate change, can drive horrendously destructive fires through brush and open oak woodlands. Dense forests are not required. That was the case in all three of the most destructive fires in our region last year — the Klamathon, Carr, and Camp Fires.

Truly wild fire, away from houses and towns, is natural, ecologically valuable, and inevitable in our region's forests. What makes fires destructive from the human perspective is, obviously enough, their effect on humans. So, our response needs to be sharply focused on the human side of the equation, beginning with the creation of defensible space around all of our homes. More broadly, we need our legislators (and insurance companies) to put in place strong disincentives to further building in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). We can no longer pretend that such development does not impose huge costs on all of us — in infrastructure, in risk to firefighters, and in terms of the astronomical taxpayer-borne expense of fire-fighting. According to a 2015 Forest Service study, fighting fires in the WUI costs more than twice as much per acre as in forest away from the WUI, and nearly 30 times as much as fire-fighting in undeveloped grassland or brush.

A century ago, the English novelist John Galsworthy wrote "Men are in fact, quite unable to control their own inventions; they at best develop adaptability to the new conditions those inventions create." This is not something that we want to hear. We want our lovely homes in the woods. If those are threatened by fire, we expect full suppression regardless of the cost, and if they are destroyed, well, we want to rebuild in another lovely spot — and expect insurance to cover us.

The time has come to accept that our uncontrolled use of fossil fuels has changed the world. Yes, we can — we must — work tirelessly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the worst future scenarios. But even if those efforts succeed, we are always going to live under the threat of fire. By focusing on the wildland-urban interface, where our problems with fire actually are, we can reduce their impacts tremendously. But those who tell you that we can "fix" wildfires in the West — well, they're just blowing smoke.



Pepper Trail is a writer and conservation biologist living in Ashland.



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ANGELA DECKER

Coming Home To JPR

Part of the joy of traveling is returning home, and that unique mix of trepidation and bliss only a homecoming brings. When I was a kid and we'd go away on long summer vacations, I remember being relieved that my friends and neighbors were still there when I got back, that the world as I knew it had waited for me. At the same time, I'd be struck by big changes that seemed to have happened overnight, like the brown house next door that was suddenly painted a bright yellow. Or a friend being three inches taller. There'd be a moment of slight discombobulation, and then all would feel right.

Starting in 2017, my family and I spent a school year in the Auvergne region of central France. Even though it was lovely and amazing, I still found myself missing the Rogue Valley on occasion. When I was particularly homesick, I'd visit a cafe that sold American-style French fries (yeah, I know) and I'd stream JPR. With the 9-hour time difference, I could drink wine while listening to the morning news without anyone suggesting rehab.

When we came back last summer, I was lucky enough to be able to return to my job at JPR. While I knew the station had moved to a new building in my absence, I was and still am a little slack-jawed at how incredibly open and beautiful the new space is. My goodness, the windows! People are taking tours, we have enough light to keep plants alive, and, best of all, the building is big enough to expand the newsroom. JPR is hiring a full-time news director and, now that I'm sharing the role of Morning Edition host with April Ehrlich, our more flexible schedules allow for more news-writing opportunities. I'm surrounded by crazy-smart, talented people like April, Geoffrey Riley, Liam Moriarty, Jes Burns of OPB, and Jefferson Exchange co-producer John Baxter; all are quick to lend a hand or answer my questions, no matter how goofy.

For me, coming back to JPR is coming home, and I fell back into a familiar rhythm. I love the changes just as much as I love what hasn't changed, the dedicated people who work here and JPR's commitment to quality news and stories that help connect us all to the area. Just recently, the Exchange has explored our region's vibrant music scene, the housing shortage in Klamath Falls, and the untold history of black people during the northern California gold rush. Our region is rich with stories to tell and news to share.

I love the changes just as much as I love what hasn't changed.



A while back, I came into the office around 4:30am as usual for my Morning Edition duties, expecting to have the building to my still-sleepy self. I was both scared witless and retroactively unsurprised when Liam Moriarty popped out of one of the production rooms. He'd covered an evening hearing on the Klamath River dam in Yreka, then drove back to JPR and worked all night to have the story ready for that morning's feature. That's the way the JPR news folks are: fully committed to bringing news and information that serves the community and makes a difference in people's lives, including in-depth stories from all over the State of Jefferson.

Thanks to your generous support, JPR continues to be the news source that you wake up with, the information source that keeps us all learning, and a place that you can come home to, no matter where you are.

Angela Decker joined JPR as a backup host for *Morning Edition* in August 2016, and moved into the main chair in February 2017 as both host and reporter. She has a long history in journalism, but is a relatively recent convert to broadcasting. When she's not at JPR, Angela is a freelance writer and part-time poet. She's the mother of two hungry teens and too many pets.

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DON KAHLE

Oregon Explores Early Voting

Should Oregon lower the age for voter participation to 16? The most common argument I hear against the change is that 16-year-olds are still children. That might turn out to be the strongest argument in its favor.

Most 16-year-olds are still in high school and almost all of them are still living with their parents. Two years later, when they reach the current minimum voting age, most of these young people hope to have moved out of their childhood home, either to attend college or to begin their working lives.

When would society prefer to introduce this important privilege and responsibility of citizenship? Shortly after a person has left home for the first time and is completely on their own, surrounded by peers who are in the same predicament? Or while they're taking history classes in high school, attending mandatory school assemblies, and are still under the watchful eyes of their parents?

Habits that form early are the hardest habits to break. Abundant research shows that voting is like smoking in this way. If you become a smoker while you are still assembling your self-image, you tend to stay a smoker forever, or until some dramatic life change intervenes. The same appears to be true about voting. If a teenager considers him or herself a voter, the habit and self-image will reinforce one another forever.

Will teenagers make mature decisions? Not always, but the chances are better when they are being watched by those who can cut their allowance or give them a failing grade. We don't seem hesitant to eat a burger flipped, or to accept change counted by a 16-year-old. Supervision allows order to be maintained.

I can't think of a better way to revitalize how history and rhetoric are taught in the schools.

Those who hold jobs pay taxes. Give them a share in societal decision-making. They might not make the same choices as we would, but they will differ earnestly. They may do more research on ballot issues than many older people. Whenever a 16-year-old drives a car, every driver on that road shares the risks caused by their inclusion. Why should society in general be any different?

I can't think of a better way to revitalize how history and rhetoric are taught in the schools. The lessons and techniques would suddenly seem much less abstract. Citizenship itself would become less a concept than a practice. Imagine how real our school funding debates would become when students still in those schools had a voice on Election Day.

Take it one step further. How many parents of wide-eyed teenagers would suddenly feel an urgency to vote that they hadn't felt before? They might bone up on issues for dinner-table debates with their children. They may vote in order to zero out their own child's idealism. That would still be more empowering than non-voting – for everyone involved.

Empowerment without supervision is what we should be trying to reduce, especially for teenagers. Watch a group of college freshmen struggling with ready access to alcohol and tell me their habits wouldn't be healthier if they began when parental supervision was still firmly in place.



Don Kahle (fridays@dksez.com) writes a column each Friday for *The Register-Guard* and blogs at www.dksez.com.

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Some experts don't think this hodgepodge of services will last.

Too Much Video Streaming To Choose From? It's Only Going To Get Worse

Here's the good news: There's a lot of high-quality streaming video available right now, with great scripts and A-list actors. The bad news? Maybe there's just too much content to choose from.

It can be frustrating when viewers try to figure out which service has what they want to watch — Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu? It's about to get worse, as more streaming services launch this year.

It has already been frustrating and costly for Brandon Smith. He's a big James Bond fan. Many of the films are online. Recently, he went back to finish watching one he had started on Hulu only to realize, "Oh, shoot! It's the 1st of the month. It's not available anymore."

On March 1st, Hulu lost the rights to several Bond films. Different ones will be there on April 1st. "It seems to be a much more limited run of some of the content that I like," Smith says.

The world has certainly changed since the days when the only option for consumers was to purchase a bundle of channels from a local cable, satellite or telephone company.

More than 70 percent of American households still have some kind of pay TV, according to eMarketer. But close to 60 percent now have at least one streaming service. And nearly half of consumers surveyed by Deloitte said they were frustrated by the growing number of subscriptions and services needed to watch what they want.

People who want to see a new program have no choice but to subscribe. Hulu's original *The Handmaid's Tale* coincided with a spike in new subscribers. *Game of Thrones* appears to have given HBO's streaming service a boost.

But the costs can add up. Smith, his wife and their two children have accounts with Netflix and Hulu. They also pay for Amazon Prime, cable and broadband at a cost of nearly \$340 a month.

"So far I'm able to absorb the cost," Smith says. "But I still would like to find one service that offers the stations [his wife] likes. So, it's just sort of finding that right mix that offers everything we're looking for."

Unfortunately for Smith, that service may not be coming anytime soon.

"Some people have this notion and this misbelief that, 'Hey, one day someone's going to come along like Apple and they're just going to aggregate everything into one platform,'" says Dan Rayburn, a principal analyst with Frost and Sullivan.

More streaming services are launching later this year, including one from Disney with all its entertainment might and

hits from Marvel, Star Wars, and Pixar — and AT&T, which owns Time Warner and the rights to Harry Potter.

"These major corporations like a Disney, they want to have the direct-to-consumer relationship," Rayburn says. "They don't want to go through a third party. They don't want to go through another platform."

Amanda Lotz, a professor at Queensland University of Technology in Australia, thinks it's a golden age.

"In one household you may decide that you need these services, in the next household they may be entirely different," she says. "There is that element of choice. There is the ability to add and drop the services much more fluidly than was the case with something like cable."

Lotz says customers are experimenting, too. Many subscribe to a service to watch one particular show and cancel the subscription when it's over. Sometimes they can just buy a show a la carte.

Some experts don't think this hodgepodge of services will last.

Mark Suster, a venture capitalist who has been investing in online video for over a decade, thinks we're in one of those moments of explosive growth — like the early days of the Internet — when a lot of companies are fighting it out for dominance.

Over the next few years Suster believes many services will spend a lot on content to woo customers. "And after they realize that they're not winning the race, you'll see a lot of those people exit and consolidate around the winners," he says.

Some people might actually welcome consolidation.

Alexa Conway is a 70-year-old retiree on a fixed income. She has Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu, but canceled her cable subscription to save money, and she put up an antenna to get local TV stations. She's a fan of the Denver Broncos. On cable she got all their games. She says now she would have to subscribe to the CBS All Access streaming service to watch them all.

"And it really, really offended me," she says. "I just thought — 'You know, there's enough to do if I want to sit in front of the TV and binge that I don't need to pay yet another service.'"

The kind of anger Conway is feeling may be having an unexpected impact. For the first time in many years, there's growth in online piracy of film and TV. Some experts say it may be because fans are getting sick of paying for yet another streaming service.

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Nobody should be surprised anymore by the superpowers of pigweed.

As Weeds Outsmart The Latest Weedkillers, Farmers Are Running Out Of Easy Options

There was a moment, about 20 years ago, when farmers thought that they'd finally defeated weeds forever.

Biotech companies had given them a new weapon: genetically engineered crops that could tolerate doses of the herbicide glyphosate, also known by its trade name, Roundup. Farmers could spray this chemical right over their crops, eliminate the weeds, and the crops were fine.

Stanley Culpepper remembers that moment. He'd left his family's farm to study weed science at North Carolina State University. "I was trained by some really, really amazing people," he says, "and I was even trained that there would never be a weed that was resistant to Roundup."

These scientists believed that plants couldn't become immune to Roundup because it required too big of a change in a plant's biology.

In 2005, though, Culpepper reported that he'd found some weeds that Roundup could not kill. They were growing in a field in Georgia. And this was not just any weed. It was a kind of monster weed called Palmer amaranth, or pigweed.

Over the following years, these glyphosate-resistant pigweeds spread like a plague across America's farmland. They're practically everywhere in the South now and increasingly common in the Midwest.

"The impact is just unbelievable," Culpepper says. "We've invested over \$1.2 billion, just in the cotton industry, for control of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth since we first discovered it."

So biotech companies rolled out a new answer: new genetically engineered varieties of soybeans and cotton that can tolerate two other herbicides, called dicamba and 2,4-D. Farmers can plant these crops and then spray those chemicals, often in addition to glyphosate, to kill their weeds.

There's a lot riding on these new products, for farmers and for pesticide companies. Dicamba-tolerant crops, in particular, have provoked controversy. But now, even before they've been fully launched, there's evidence that this weed-killing tactic may be starting to fail.

The evidence is sitting in a greenhouse at Kansas State University, carefully tended by Chandrima Shyam, a graduate student there.



DAN CHARLES/NPR

Chandrima Shyam, a graduate student at Kansas State, is hoping to learn how these Palmer amaranth plants survive 2,4-D and other herbicides.

"These are plants that were sprayed with 2,4-D. And these are the resistant plants," she says. "You can see that the resistant plants are pretty vigorous."

I see trays and trays of green, flourishing pigweeds. They are the offspring of weeds that another Kansas State scientist, Dallas Peterson, noticed last summer in a field where he conducts research. They seemed to survive every chemical he threw at them.

"We were just not able to control or kill those weeds following those herbicide applications," he says.

He called in a colleague who specializes in research on herbicide resistance, Mithila Jugulam, who in turn enlisted Shyam's help.

"So we went to the field. We dug out the whole plants, brought them to the greenhouse and kept them in isolation," Shyam says.

They grew 10 Palmer amaranth plants until they produced seeds, then replanted those seeds to produce new generations of plants in order to study them. They found that these pigweeds can survive sprays of 2,4-D. Some plants also appear to be immune to dicamba, although that still needs to be confirmed. The plants probably are resistant to glyphosate as well.

Basically, they're a farmer's nightmare. And if they showed up in one field, they're probably in other fields, too.

Culpepper, at the University of Georgia, says he's not surprised. Nobody should be surprised anymore by the superpowers of pigweed, he says. "I'm telling you, as a weed scientist, it's just an absolutely fascinating plant," he says. "You have to respect it, and the first thing to respect it is, [know that] this plant will outsmart me if I do the same thing over and over again."

Culpepper tells farmers that they still can control this superweed, but they need to use a bunch of different tools. That means deploying multiple chemicals, alternating the crops that they plant, and planting extra "cover crops" in the off-season to cover the soil and make it harder for weeds to emerge.


Matt Coley, a farmer in Vienna, Ga., says most growers learned a lot from their experience losing Roundup as a cure-all for weeds. "As long as we continue to follow the recommendations not to rely just on one chemistry, I think we'll continue to be able to manage pigweed," he says.

But dicamba and 2,4-D are among the herbicides he uses on his cotton crop, and he admits it's a little unsettling to hear about Palmer amaranth plants that these chemicals won't kill. He's hoping for new weapons in his arsenal. "The industry, the manufacturers – for them to be in business, they've got to have farmers," he says. "Hopefully they're utilizing their research and development to continue to provide us with products that will help us control our pests in our crops."

The arsenal is running out, though. And that's what worries Culpepper the most. "We haven't had a new way to kill a weed with a herbicide since 1984," he says.

Meanwhile, weeds like Palmer amaranth and ryegrass have been defeating one chemical after another. "This is a monumental challenge we're facing. Is dicamba- and 2,4-D-resistant pigweed surprising? No," he says. "[But] the overall issue with resistance is flat-out overwhelming."

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“We have a great opportunity up here for a complete reset.”

— Cathe Wood, Paradise Resident

‘Reimagining Paradise’ — Making Plans To Rebuild A Town Destroyed By Wildfire

Last fall’s deadly Camp Fire has brought renewed questions about whether towns in high-risk areas like Paradise, Calif., should even be rebuilt.

Barry Long recently tried to squash those questions immediately as he kicked off a crowded town hall meeting at Paradise Alliance Church.

“One of the first questions we get is, ‘Are they really going to rebuild Paradise?’” Long said. “And we say that’s not a question. [The Town] Council made an immediate decision [that] we’re going to rebuild Paradise.”

That was met by a resounding applause from a large crowd of anxious Paradise residents. Long’s firm, Urban Design Associates, was hired by the Town Council to develop a long-term recovery plan for Paradise. They’ve begun holding meetings to discuss with residents how they think their town should be rebuilt.

Many people have had to leave Paradise after about 90 percent of the town — almost 19,000 structures — burned to the ground last November in the Camp Fire, which also claimed 85 lives. But for the few who do remain and are eager to begin rebuilding, Long sought to give them reassurances: You can’t just abandon a community that has been a fixture in the Sierra Nevada foothills since the 1800s, he said.

“It took 140 years to build Paradise, and obviously things did survive, like the church here,” Long said.

Urban Design Associates also consulted for the state of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. And that’s what this still-unfolding crisis is starting to be likened to: a rural Katrina. One big parallel emerging so far is anxiety over gentrification. Once Paradise is rebuilt, there’s resounding agreement that it will have much tougher fire-safe building codes. And that won’t be cheap.

“We just need affordable living and our home back,” said Paradise resident Cathe Wood.

Anxiety over gentrification

Wood has lived in Paradise for 30 years. She’s planning to rebuild but is still applying for permits and dealing with insurance claims. For now anyway, her job is still in Paradise — she works at an accounting firm that didn’t burn. Her home and her family weren’t so lucky.

“I lost everything,” Wood says. “All my family members are homeless, scattered throughout California. I just want to come home.”



Third-year architecture student Alessandro Zanghi is proposing a new vocational college in Paradise to train people in carpentry, plumbing and other trades that will be in high demand as the foothills town looks to rebuild.

Paradise was a haven for retirees and others who couldn’t afford the city or just wanted to live in the country. Like a lot of Western towns, it grew too quickly — without a lot of planning, and scant zoning. Mobile home parks, tract houses, and fast-food restaurants were packed into overgrown forests.

Wood hopes something good will come out of all this.

“We have a great opportunity up here for a complete reset,” she says.

A complete reset, but will it be affordable?

“Paradise is not going to be the same as it was,” says Jody Jones, the town’s mayor.

As the recovery process moves forward, Jones and other town officials insist they’re trying to balance rebuilding smarter with not mandating expensive changes. But they’ve never done this before, and they’re learning as they go.

“I don’t know that I can give any assurances it’s not going to be gentrified,” Jones says. “Because in some sense of the word,

Continued on page 41



AUDIE CORNISH



LAKSHMI SINGH



DAVID GREENE



ROBIN YOUNG



ARI SHAPIRO



STEVE INSKEEP

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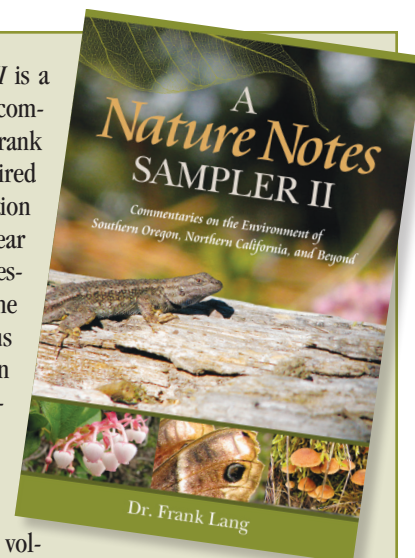
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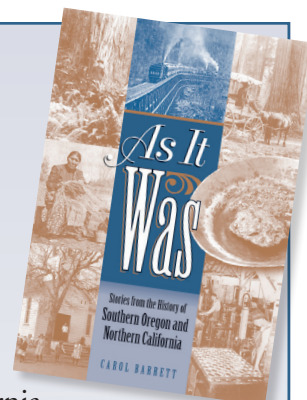
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As It Was *Stories from the History of Southern Oregon and Northern California*

BY CAROL BARRETT

Based on JPR's original radio series, *As It Was* is a collection of colorful vignettes & photographs depicting the regional history of Southern Oregon and Northern California.



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JASON HALLEY, CSU, CHICO

Cal Poly architecture students focused on reimagining and rebuilding Paradise, Calif., by presenting models, renderings and updated concepts during a community forum in Chico, Calif.

what people mean by that is new, and everything we build is going to be new; it's going to be different."

The good news is that Paradise has time to get it right. The scale of this disaster is enormous; even just cleaning it up and removing all the hazardous debris could take more than a year. So it's not as if the town can just be repopulated and rebuilt immediately as it was.

The cleanup began in earnest only a couple of months ago.

Thinking big

At another forum in nearby Chico, a group of third-year architecture students from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo may have some answers. They've put up poster boards showing architectural renderings of energy-efficient and "fire-wise" municipal buildings. Proposed are redesigned wider street grids for safer evacuations. And neighborhoods are drawn with more cleared-out open space between smaller, modern, and up-to-code homes.

A few curious members of the public mingled around the presentation, talking to students who said their models were still a work in progress.

"We're trying to figure out a different way to rearrange the town so that it better suits the inhabitants and brings new people to Paradise," said Alessandro Zanghi.

They're calling it a "reimagined Paradise." The class typically consults for underserved communities. And when the Camp Fire happened, the curriculum was redesigned to cater to Paradise and surrounding burned-out towns.

For Zanghi, it has been a challenge trying to design proposals that preserve Paradise's rural character. But he says it's

a misconception that rebuilding or redeveloping a mountain community like this will result in a more expensive town.

"It's really important to have architecture be more than just luxury high-rises," Zanghi says. "It should be things that help a community grow and flourish."

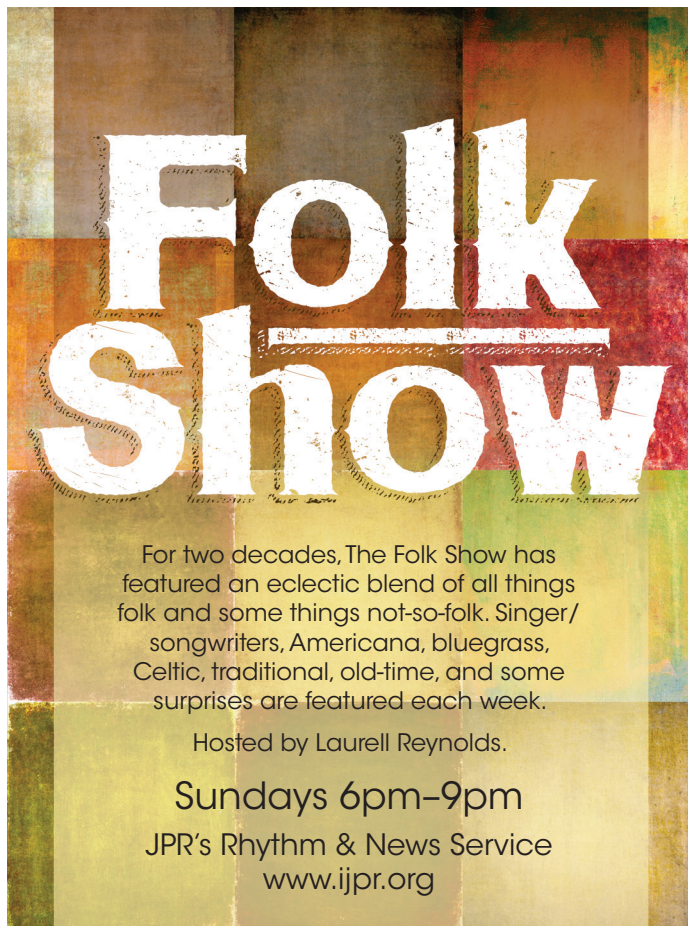
Affordability and gentrification are some of the more heated topics emerging so far in the town's preliminary discussions. At some cantankerous Town Council meetings, fire survivors have argued with officials over whether they could put campers on burned-out properties and how resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be allocated.

The students' instructor, Stacey White, says those are tough conversations that have to happen. But what's going on here is separate. These students can take the time to take a 30,000-foot view of the rebuilding project and hopefully inspire a little hope for the community amid all the setbacks.

"But [these] students have an ability to step back and think, 'What if we did this right?'" White says. "They're focused on affordability, resiliency, and permanence, really investing in the place so we don't relive this again in 10 years."

Her class will soon hand over its plans to the town. After four long months of stress and anxiety in this community, the students hope the crisis can also be looked at as an opportunity for Paradise, and they want to help.

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Folk Show

For two decades, The Folk Show has featured an eclectic blend of all things folk and some things not-so-folk. Singer/songwriters, Americana, bluegrass, Celtic, traditional, old-time, and some surprises are featured each week.

Hosted by Laurell Reynolds.

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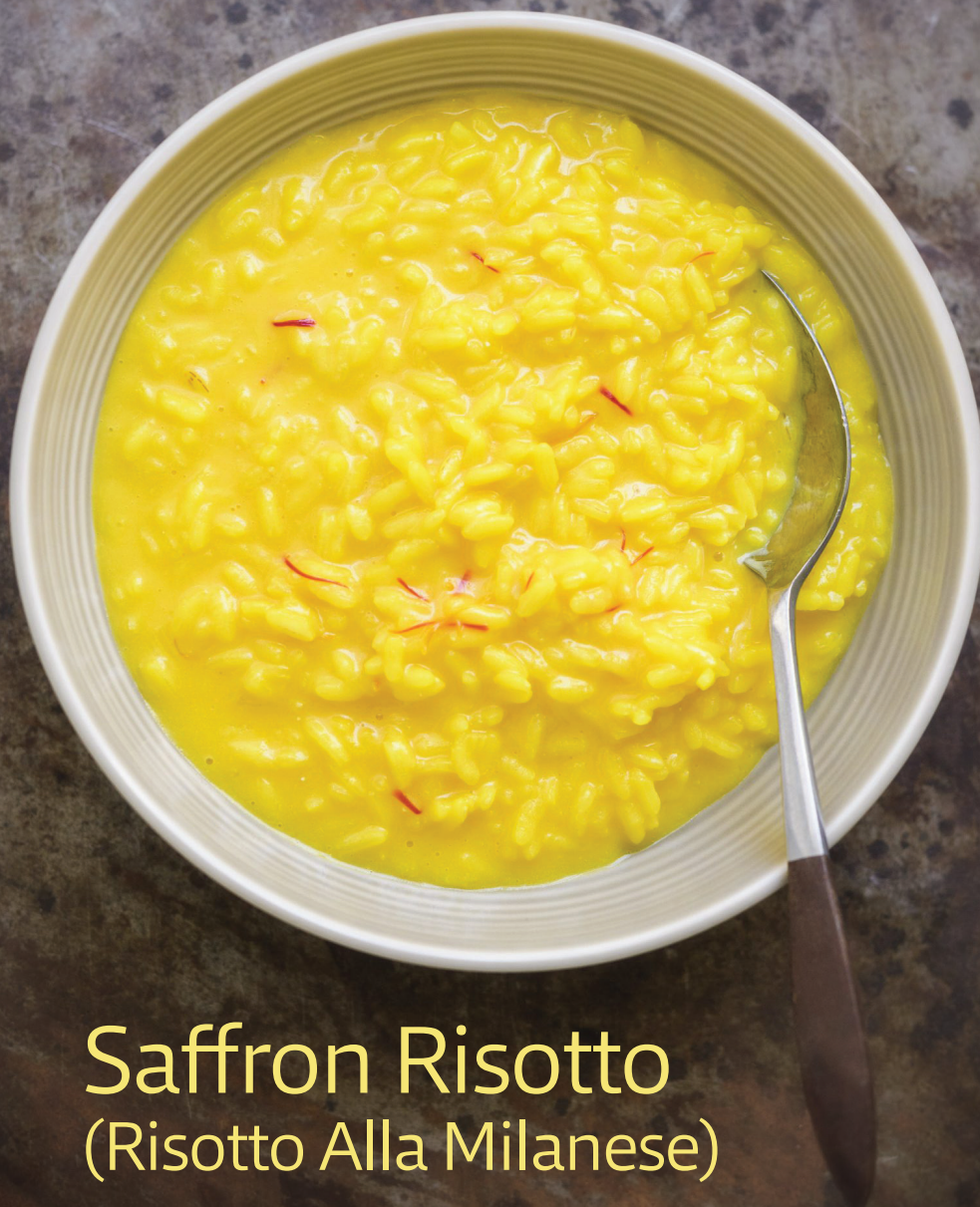


FRESH AIR

Terry Gross provides a lively look at entertainment and the arts, combined with in-depth personality interviews, to make you feel like you're in the middle of the arts scene.

Weekdays at 3pm & 7pm | Fresh Air Weekend Sundays at 2pm
JPR's News & Information Service





Saffron Risotto (Risotto Alla Milanese)

Saffron-rice risotto alla Milanese is a specialty of Milan. Medium-grain Italian rice is essential for achieving a rich, creamy consistency, as it has the ideal starch content. Arborio rice is the most common choice for risotto in the U.S., but cooks in Milan — and at Milk Street — preferred carnaroli. We found that the grains better retained their structure and resisted overcooking. With careful cooking, however, Arborio will yield delicious results. A quick five-ingredient homemade vegetable broth is the best cooking liquid for this risotto; its fresh, clean flavor won't compete with the other ingredients. Serve in warmed, shallow bowls to prevent the rice from cooling too quickly. If the flavor and aroma of saffron don't appeal to you, try one of our variations; the techniques we learned in Milan also worked well for other flavors.

25 Minutes

Tip: Don't cook the rice to the ideal al dente texture before removing the pan from the burner. The grains will continue to cook with residual heat as the cheese and butter are stirred in.

Ingredients

3½ cups vegetable broth
1 teaspoon saffron threads
6 tablespoons (¾ stick) salted butter,
cut into 1-tablespoon pieces, divided
1 cup carnaroli or arborio rice
1 ounce parmesan cheese, finely grated
(½ cup)
kosher salt
4 teaspoons white balsamic vinegar

Directions

In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring the broth, covered, to a simmer. Reduce to low to keep warm. In a small bowl or measuring cup, combine ½ cup of the hot broth and the saffron. Set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium-high, melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Add the rice and cook, stirring constantly, until translucent at the edges, 1 to 2 minutes. Add 2½ cups of the remaining hot broth and bring to a boil, then reduce to medium and cook, stirring frequently and briskly, until the grains are almost tender but still quite firm at the core (it will be quite soupy), 8 to 10 minutes; adjust the heat as needed to maintain a vigorous simmer.

Add the saffron broth and cook, stirring frequently and briskly, until the rice is just shy of al dente but still soupy, 3 to 5 minutes. If the rice is thick and dry but the grains are still too firm, add the remaining hot broth in ¼-cup increments and continue to cook, stirring, until the rice is just shy of al dente.

Off heat, stir in the Parmesan, ½ teaspoon salt and the remaining 4 tablespoons butter, 1 piece at a time. Taste and season with salt, then stir in the vinegar. Serve immediately.

Christopher Kimball's Milk Street in downtown Boston — at 177 Milk Street — is home to the editorial offices and cooking school. It also is where they record *Christopher Kimball's Milk Street* television and radio shows. *Milk Street* is changing how we cook by searching the world for bold, simple recipes and techniques. For more information, go to 177milkstreet.com. You can hear *Milk Street Radio* Sundays at 3:00pm on JPR's *News & Information* service.

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As It Was is a co-production of Jefferson Public Radio and the Southern Oregon Historical Society. The series' script editor and coordinator is Kernan Turner, whose maternal grandmother arrived in Ashland in 1861 via the Applegate Trail.

As It Was airs Monday through Friday on JPR's Classics & News service at 9:30am and 1:00pm, and on the News & Information service at 9:57am and 9:57pm following the *Jefferson Exchange*.

Wagons Slide Down Steepest Applegate Trail Hillsides

By Luana (Loffer) Corbin

A treacherous part of the Applegate Trail in the 1840s was sliding covered wagons down steep mountain slopes.

An old-timer once explained that driving covered wagons downhill on switchbacks put "too much strain on the downhill wheels, (and) would snap your axles in two." Instead, the pioneers would climb timber and rocky ridges for hours to a summit and then slide down the hillside. One of those slides was at the Keene Creek Canyon between present-day Klamath Falls and Ashland, Ore.

The wagon drivers unhitched their oxen, leaving only two animals attached to the front. They cut small trees, hooking them to the rear axle to keep the wheels from turning. Then they connected chains to the hind wheels and wrapped the chains around a thick tree. The men played out the chain gradually, letting the oxen guide the sliding wagon down the canyon slope.

The Keene Creek Wagon Slide at the Green Springs Summit on Hwy 66 was one of the steepest wagons encountered. Today, a sign on the left side of the highway at the Keene Creek Reservoir marks a slide area.

SOURCES: "Keene Creek Wagon Slide." *Waymarking.com*, 3 May 2012, www.waymarking.com/./WMEBQC_KEENE_CREEK_WAGON_SLIDE_Jackson_Co.; Black, Bob. "A Photo Tour of the Applegate Trail." *Applegate Trail, Emigrant Trails West, Inc.*, 2010, emigranttrailswest.org/virtual-tour/applegate-trail/; Miller, Bill. "Plunging into the darkness below." *Mail Tribune*, 17 Feb. 2013 [Medford, OR], mailtribune.com/lifestyle/plunging-into-the-darkness-below-; "Hiking through History with Dr. Jeff LaLande." *cascadesiskiyou.org*, edited by John Ward, cascadesiskiyou.org, 8 Nov. 2017, www.cascadesiskiyou.org/blog/2017/11/hiking-through-history-with-dr-jeff-lalande.

Surviving Family Carves Out Life In Shasta County

By Gail Fiorini-Jenner

John and Sarah Alberg emigrated from Sweden to Northern California in 1874, settling in Shasta County, where they raised and sold vegetables, primarily potatoes. They also milked cows for butter.

John Alberg died on a trip to Oregon to determine what opportunities might exist there. His wife, Sarah, never knew where he was buried. Left with four children, she carried on, cooking at Prince Baker's sawmill on Hoover Creek where the Alberg children learned the sawmill business.

A daughter, Sally, moved in with the Voss family near Ono, outside Redding, and another daughter, Alice, lived with Mrs. Hubbard,

who ran a boarding house for miners on South Fork Creek above Igo.

While working at the sawmill, Sarah Alberg rode by horseback to the county seat, Shasta, where she presented her papers for citizenship. Neither of Sarah's sons ever married but one daughter, Sally, married and raised three children.

Sarah and her children registered their cattle brand in 1898. Part of the family, including Sarah, was buried at Ono, and Sally and her family were buried at Igo.

SOURCE: *John Alberg. History & Happenings: Acorns of Information About Local History and Genealogy.* <http://historyandhappenings.squarespace.com/ono-cemetery/2009/3/27/alberg-john.html>

POETRY

JIM FLINT AND
KATHLEEN HARPER

Spring

Three pies in a row
on a shelf behind the shed
the mud nearly set

Snow flurries in June
the ubiquitous white fluff
of cottonwood trees

Eager five-year-old
driving down a country lane
on his father's lap

Dakota back road
the dusty smell of raindrops
a windmill creaking

Summer

A fresh-pulled carrot
rubbed clean by a boy's small hands
tasty but gritty

Sweltry August night
ice, salt and wooden paddles
back porch alchemy

Roasting marshmallows
suddenly engulfed in flames
careless by design

A hot summer day
quenching thirst with a cool sip
from the garden hose

Autumn

The school desk inkwell
dipping a nib for cursive
a pigtail for fun

Smell of burning leaves
smoke curling from the raked pile
and from father's pipe

One-room country school
horses at a hitching rail
singing from inside

Thanksgiving dinner—
buried in a backyard stump
the bloody hatchet

Winter

The neighbor's wood stove
from its cast iron belly
warm loaves of fresh bread

Perfect cylinder
in the snow beneath the tree
where an apple fell

Snowdrifts and snowmen
woolens piled high on a sled
a child tucked inside

Warm and towel dried
after a winter washup
the smell of wet dog

— Jim Flint

Cowboys in the Laundromat

Walrus like
their mustaches peer
over their lips.

Hats pulled low
to shield them
from the glare
of whites.

White socks
White briefs
White undershirts

Denim faded into a
soft and comforting pile
waits to be ordered
along familiar lines.
A crease just so
pushed in by hands
more used to
pickup trucks
than
the mysteries
of fabric softener.

Busy the men stuff
their goods into a duffel
a more familiar chore
packing up to leave.

— Kathleen Harper

Jim Flint is a former newspaper editor and publisher living in Ashland, Ore. In his retirement he does freelance writing, photography, and editing. His poetry earned awards in juried contests sponsored by Allied Arts of Yakima, Washington, and his work was included in *Twentieth*, a Yakima Coffeehouse Poets anthology of winners from 19 years of Allied Arts competitions. The poems here are from a collection called "Haiku from a Childhood."

Writers may submit original poetry for publication in *Jefferson Journal*.

Email 3–6 poems, a brief bio, and your mailing address in one attachment to jeffmopoetry@gmail.com, or send 3–6 poems, a brief bio, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Amy Miller, Poetry Editor
Jefferson Journal
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Please allow eight
weeks for reply.

Kathleen Harper is a retired social worker who spends her days reading, writing, bookbinding, and making quilts. She also enjoys birdwatching and listening to opera music. She lives in North Bend, Ore.

REDDING'S HISTORIC



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May 1

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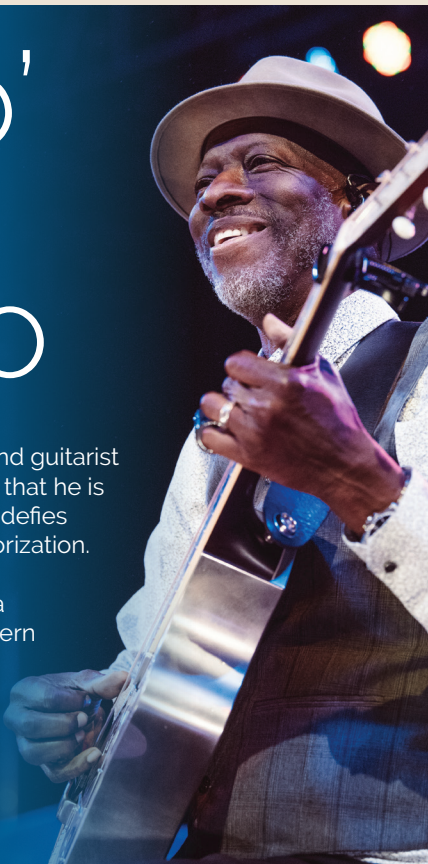


This show contains mature content.

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